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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU
OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY READY

Washington, December 8:--Appreciation of the practical value of the methods developed by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture for the destruction of predatory animals and injurious rodents is shown by continued financial support from cooperating States, organizations, and individuals, amounting to \$996,379 during the past fiscal year, according to the annual report of the bureau. It is estimated that as a result of control work conducted, crops and live stock to the value of over \$10,000,000 have been saved. In operations against predatory animals hunters are required to turn in as evidence the skins or scalps of animals taken. Such evidence was obtained in the case of 687 large gray wolves, 27,185 coyotes, 2,827 bobcats and Canada lynxes, 173 mountain lions, and 114 stock-killing bears, a total of 30,986 predatory animals. It is estimated that at least 50,000 additional coyotes, of which no carcasses were found, were killed by poison baits.

In addition to the predatory animal work within various States, trained hunters have been stationed along passes leading across the Mexican border, to capture wolves and other destructive animals as they enter this country, and arrangements have been made with stockmen in northern Mexico for the maintenance of hunters along the international border who will cooperate with the Federal and State forces of the United States.

Field operations against prairie dogs and ground squirrels are being conducted with a view to the complete eradication of these rodents in a systematic manner over great units of land. Many heavily infested counties throughout the West have been cleared to the point where only an occasional animal is found.

four States have been particularly effective. In Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Texas, great numbers of jack rabbits were destroyed by traps and poison, a total of 640,050 jack rabbits was reported killed and counted in Idaho alone.

Representatives of the bureau have been called on to assist in organizing many local rat campaigns, help for which is universally needed. Special investigations were made in cooperation with the Experiment Station of the North Dakota Agricultural College and the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture regarding the effectiveness of various rat viruses on the market. Results indicated that such viruses are generally unreliable and at their best the cost is out of all proportion to the good accomplished.

Important progress has been made in investigations pertaining to the rearing of wild fur-bearing animals in captivity. Fur farms are reported from 25 States, where foxes, skunks, raccoons, minks, opossums, martens, muskrats, squirrels, and beavers are raised. It is estimated that 500 ranchers are raising silver foxes in the United States; that they have between 12,000 and 15,000 foxes in captivity; and that the value of the investment is about \$8,000,000. Progress has been made in studies of the prevalence of internal and external parasites of foxes. The discovery of the fact that martens breed the last of July and in August has solved the problem which has heretofore prevented the successful rearing of these animals in captivity and has opened up an important field to the fur-farmer.

The work of the division of food habits research has centered about the relations of birds to agriculture, and included an economic study of toads. Control measures have been suggested in connection with pinyon jays, blackbirds, and ducks, damaging grain in several western States, and the white-winged scoter or coot, which has been found very destructive to scallops.

The bird banding work, which is carried on partly for the purpose of obtaining information for use in administering the migratory bird treaty act, has made substantial progress this year.

Federal game and bird reservations now number 69. Five of the nu are big-game refuges, where most of the big-game animals have increased, the exception of the antelopes, which suffered heavily from coyotes and bobcats during the winter.

Reports from practically every section of the United States show the protection now given migratory birds by the administration of the migratory-bird treaty act is resulting in a material increase in their num Since the abolition of spring shooting waterfowl are extending their bre range in rapidly increasing numbers. Many substantial penalties have be imposed against violators of the act.

The supervision of foreign birds and mammals to prevent the intro tion of harmful species is a part of the work of the bureau. Canaries, Mexican quail, and foxes have been imported under inspection in large nu and an unusual number of elephants have been brought in for menageries a zoological gardens, as well as many rare and interesting birds for exhib purposes from South America and Australia.

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